

DONOVAN LEAVES ON CUBAN MISSION

Says He Has Final Pledges
for Prisoners Negotiations

James B. Donovan left for Havana yesterday to complete arrangements for the release of 1,179 Cubans captured in the unsuccessful invasion of Cuba in April, 1961.

Mr. Donovan, general counsel to the Cuban Families Committee for Liberation of Prisoners of War, said before he left New York that "final pledges" had been received that would enable him to close negotiations with the regime of Premier Fidel Castro.

Mr. Donovan said his negotiations with the Cuban Government had not involved cash, machinery or any other material that would strengthen the Cuban economy. He said in a statement:

"We have sought pledges of foodstuffs and medicines which could be used to alleviate the suffering of children, the sick and the elderly."

Mr. Donovan went to Havana last month to discuss the ransom of the prisoners, 66 of whom had already been released to try to collect the \$62,000,000 Premier Castro had demanded as an "indemnity" for the invasion.

Mr. Donovan arranged the release by the Soviet Union of Francis Gary Powers, the U-2 pilot, in exchange for the convicted Soviet spy, Col. Rudolph Abel.

200 Seek to Enlist

As Mr. Donovan was leaving, 200 Cuban refugees appeared at Selective Service headquarters here. They sought to join special Spanish-speaking Army units, but most of them were rejected as overage.

The special induction program for Cuban refugees began in New York yesterday. Three-fourths of those appearing at the headquarters at 205 East Forty-second Street were beyond the 18-through-25 age limit.

The misunderstanding apparently stemmed, at least in part, from an article in yesterday's edition of El Diario, a Spanish-language newspaper here. It said there was no age limit for Cubans in good health.

About fifty men who were eligible were sent to the Army recruiting center at 39 Whitehall Street.

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